Coal Prices

75. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of coal have decided to increase the coal prices, if so, what is the hike to be imposed upon and what is the increased quantum of revenue expected and also the revenue earned from coal during last three years;

(b) what are the reasons for proposed jump in coal prices;

(c) whether Government are aware of the mafia gang operating in cool fields areas and grabbing coal illegally;

(d) what is the estimated quantum of theft of coal by gangs; and

(e) how many times price hikes of cool took place during the last decades?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDAR): (a) Government is yet to take a decision on the proposal submitted by the Coal Companies for increase of coal prices.

The prices of coal produced by Coal India Limited (CIL) and Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) based on the indices of June, 1988 and January 1989 were revised last with effect from 1-1-1989 and 24-1-1989 respectively. Since then there has been substantial increase in the cost of production due to increase in the cost of inputs like wages on account of National Coal Wage Agreement IV. Variable Dearness Allowance, Explosive, POL, rate of interest. Therefore CIL and SCCL have submitted proposals for increasing the prices of coal produced by them.

(c) Government is not aware of any large scale illegal mining or pilferage of coal in coalfield areas. Any such cases, as and when detected are reported to local police authorities for taking action according to law.

(d) For reasons indicated in reply to part (c) above it is not possible to estimate the quantum of theft of coal coalfields.

(e) Coal prices have been revised nine times since nationalisation of Coal Industry.

Additional funds for power projects

76. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether his ministry has asked the Planning Commission to allocate additional funds for power projects, including the thrust areas of transmission and distribution;

(b) if so, whether the Planning Commission has agreed to allocate more funds; and

(c) if so, what are the details of the funds sought and the reaction of the Planning Commission thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (c) Adequate funds have been sought for the power programme in the 8th Plan including the areas of transmission and distribution. The Eighth Plan is yet to be finalised.

विद्युत क्षेत्र द्वारा उपयोग न किया गया अनुदान

77. सरदार जगजीत सिंह अरोड़ा : क्या विद्युत और गैर-पारम्परिक ऊर्जा स्रोत मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान 26 मार्च, 1991 के "टेलीग्राफ" में "रूपीज 650 करोड़ अन्यूज्ड बाई पावर सैक्टर" शीर्षक से प्रकाशित समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है ;